

Sub 32

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20. (Amended) An absorbent article comprising a liquid-permeable bag in the form of a tampon containing a plurality of tablets of compressed, fibrous, absorbent material, said tablets having a bulk density of at least about 0.5 g/cm³.

32 26. (Amended) A method of making an absorbent article, said method comprising the steps of:

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- a) forming fibrous, absorbent material into compressed tablets;
- b) placing the compressed tablets into an overwrap; and
- c) sealing the overwrap.

27. (Amended) A method of claim 26, wherein the absorbent material is compressed to form tablets having a predetermined density within 20% of said absorbent material's bulk density at its maximum volume capacity.

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-36 were originally filed in the present application. All are currently pending. Claims 1-22 and 26-36 stand rejected under various rejections. Claims 23-25 stand objected to. As outlined above, Claims 1, 20, 26, and 27 have been amended. Therefore, Claims 1-36 remain pending in this application.

The amended claims are fully supported in the specification as originally filed. In particular, the newly added language in Claims 1 and 27 is inherent in the disclosure and merely clarifies that which one of ordinary skill in the art would take from the originally filed claim. The amendment to Claim 20 is supported in the specification at page 5, lines 15-21. The amendments to Claim 26 merely cancel language that Applicant has determined to be confusing and unnecessary. Although the claim described "mixing" fibrous material, the specification relates to fibers that may be homogeneous blends of fibers. It would be unnecessary to mix an already homogeneous mass of homogeneous fibers.

Rejections